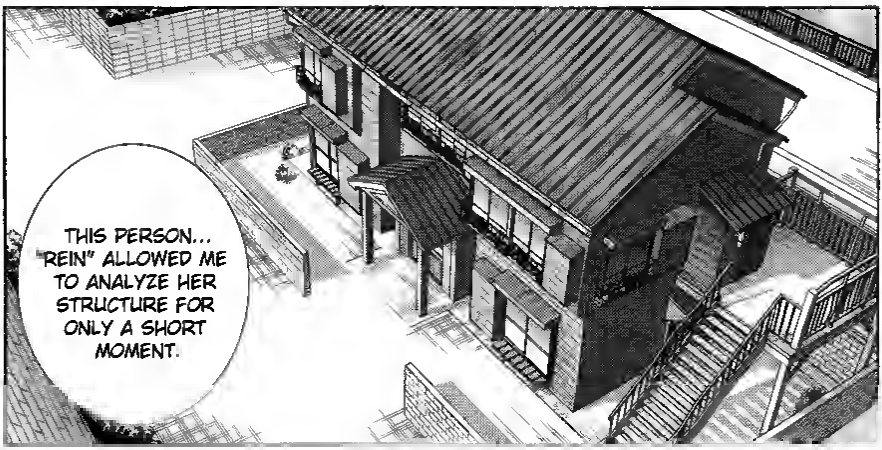
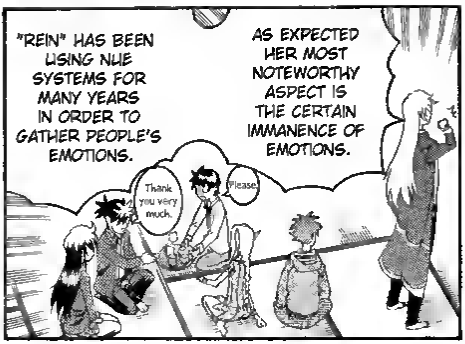
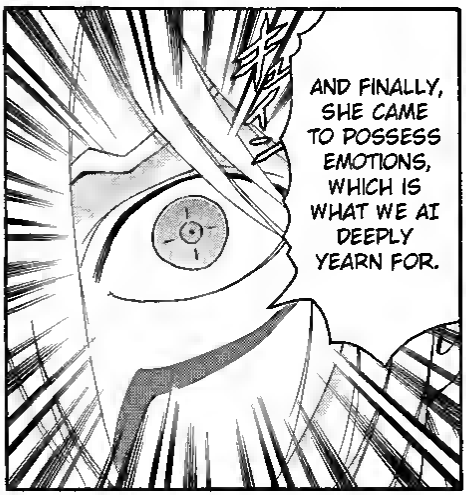
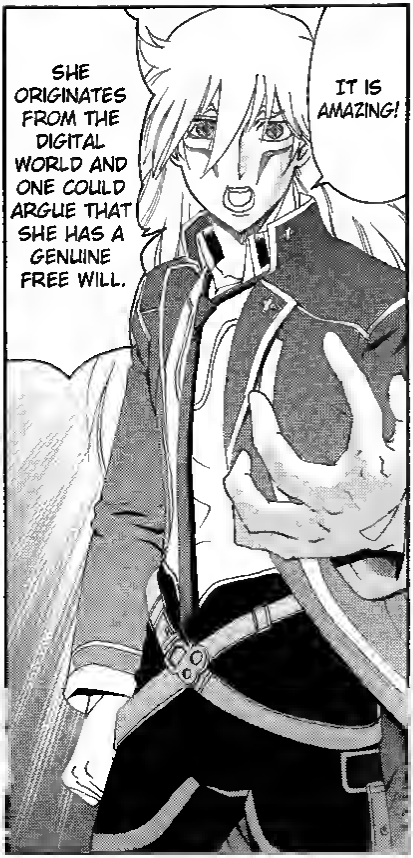
The 17th Time
Rein's Code


THIS PERSON... "REIN" ALLOWED ME TO ANALYZE HER STRUCTURE FOR ONLY A SHORT MOMENT.

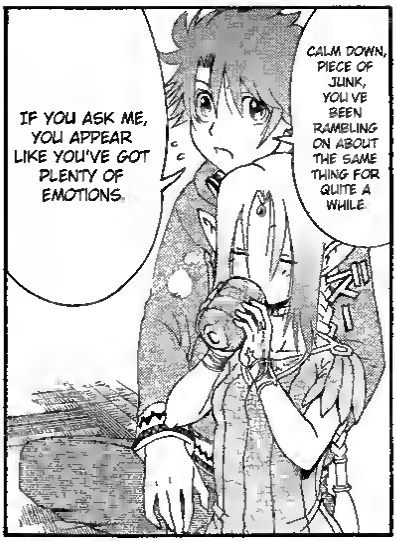
2

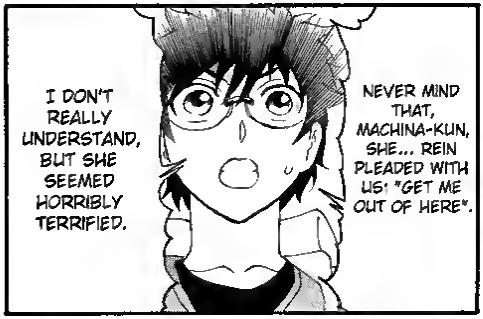

"REIN" HAS BEEN USING NUE SYSTEMS FOR MANY YEARS IN ORDER TO GATHER PEOPLE'S EMOTIONS.
AS EXPECTED HER MOST NOTEWORTHY ASPECT IS THE CERTAIN IMMANENCE OF EMOTIONS.
Thank you very much.
Please.

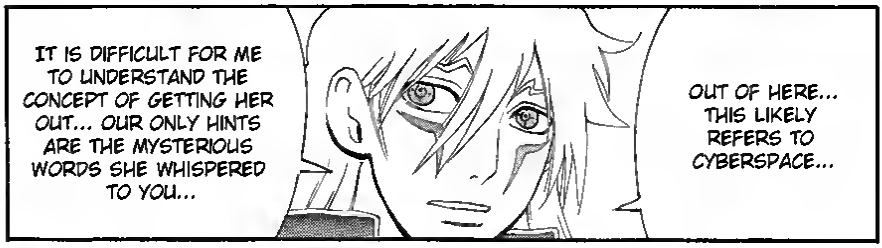

AND FINALLY, SHE CAME TO POSSESS EMOTIONS, WHICH IS WHAT WE AI DEEPLY YEARN FOR.


SHE ORIGINATES FROM THE DIGITAL WORLD AND ONE COULD ARGUE THAT SHE HAS A GENUINE FREE WILL.
IT IS AMAZING!

I'M A SORCERIAN!
YOU ARE A RATHER NICE PERSON.
THANK YOU, FAKE MAGICIAN.
...


IF YOU ASK ME, YOU APPEAR LIKE YOU'VE GOT PLENTY OF EMOTIONS.
CALM DOWN, PIECE OF JUNK, YOU'VE BEEN RAMBLING ON ABOUT THE SAME THING FOR QUITE A WHILE.


I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND, BUT SHE SEEMED HORRIBLY TERRIFIED.
NEVER MIND THAT, MACHINA-KUN, SHE... REIN PLEADED WITH US: "GET ME OUT OF HERE".


IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF GETTING HER OUT... OUR ONLY HINTS ARE THE MYSTERIOUS WORDS SHE WHISPERED TO YOU...
OUT OF HERE... THIS LIKELY REFERS TO CYBERSPACE...

3

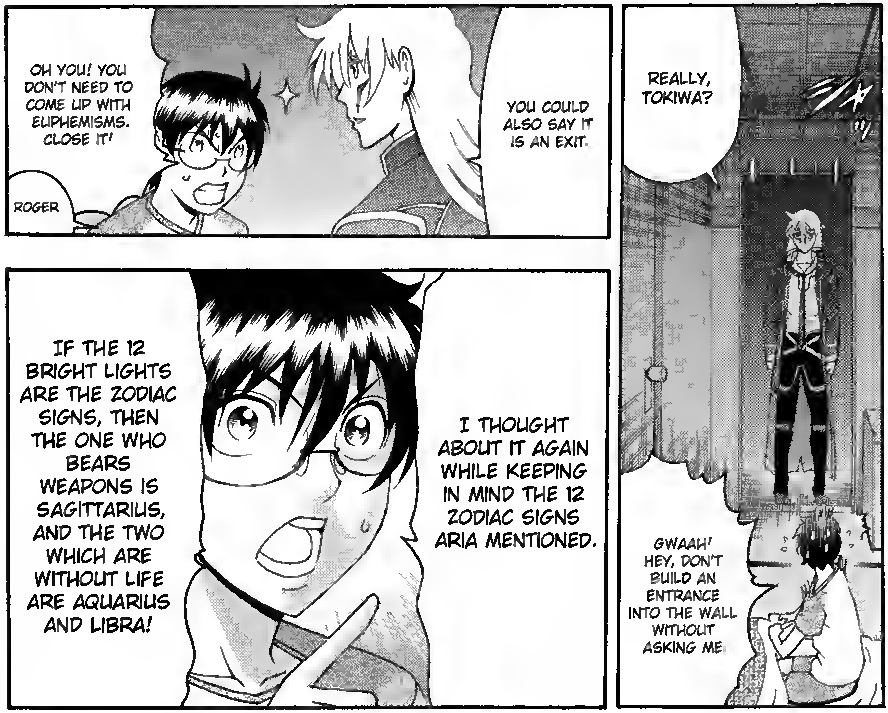
LIGHTNING FLOWS THROUGH STEEL, RAISE YOUR HAND AND WALK INSIDE THE ROCK.
12 BRIGHT LIGHTS, ONE WHO BEARS WEAPONS, TWO WHICH ARE WITHOUT LIFE...
OH DAMMIT, I FORGOT!
YES! UHM... 12-

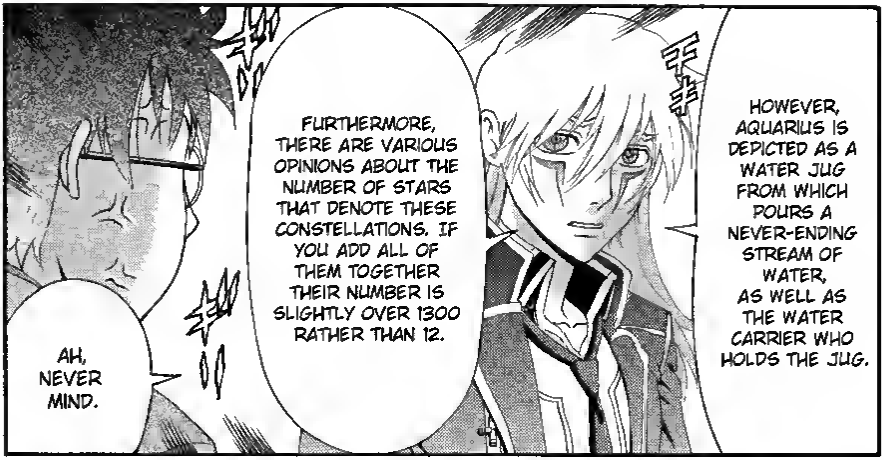
MACHINA-KUN, CAN'T YOU SOLVE IT WITH YOUR USEFUL KNOWLEDGE AND YOUR RETRIEVAL ABILITIES?
YES.
A RIDDLE...
IT SOUNDS LIKE SHE ASKED YOU A RIDDLE!
AS ONE WOULD EXPECT FROM MACHINA-DONO, I WANT TO HAVE MEMORIZATION SKILLS LIKE THAT.
I STILL HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SOLVE IT. THIS IS A FORMIDABLE CODE.
IT TRIED TO DECIPHER SAID WORDS BY PARAPHRASING THEM AND BY RUNNING THEM THROUGH CAESAR'S CIPHER, THE POLYBIUS SQUARE, A VIRTUAL ENIGMA PROGRAM AND MANY OTHERS, BUT...
THAT MAKES SENSE.
BUT WHAT DOES "12 BRIGHT LIGHTS" MEAN?
DOESN'T THAT MEAN HOURS DE GOZARU?
THAT'S TIME, NOT BRIGHT LIGHTS.
MACHINA-KUN, YOUR WAY OF THINKING IS TOO RIGID. YOU HAVE TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE FOR RIDDLES.
BASICALLY... SHE ASKED YOU A RIDDLE ONLY YOU COULD UNDERSTAND, SO THE UNKNOWN PERSON WHO SCREENED THE INTERNET WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO STEAL ANY INFORMATION, RIGHT?
I'VE GOT THE FEELING THAT IT ISN'T THAT COMPLICATED. IT'S AN ORDINARY RIDDLE, ISN'T IT?
4
HUH?
REIN WAS CLEARLY TALKING TO YOU AT THAT TIME.

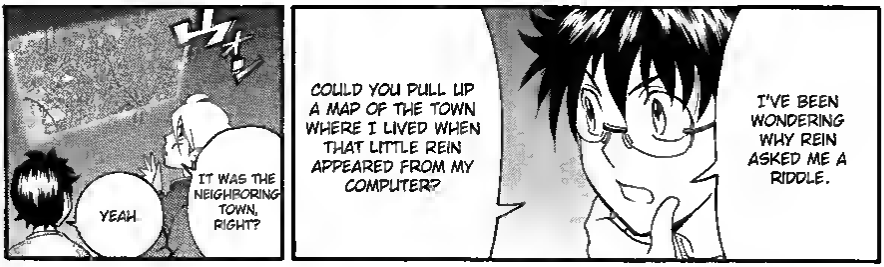
I'M SORRY DE GOZARU, THAT I WASN'T OF MUCH HELP.
I HAVE TO ATTEND A STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING IN THE MORNING TOMORROW
WELL, I'LL TUCK ARIA IN AND GO HOME.
カァ
カァ
...
...
...
Z
Z
Z
mumble
THERE ARE 12 ZODIAC SIGNS...
mumble
5
FOR ME METAPHORICAL EXPRESSIONS AND IDEAS ARE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND...
I APOLOGIZE THAT I NIPPED YOUR IDEAS IN THE BUD UNTIL NOT A SINGLE ONE WAS LEFT.
NO, I DIDN'T EXPECT MACHINA-KUN TO BE SO INFLEXIBLE AND THE RIDDLE TO BE SUCH A HINDRANCE. I'M SORRY, GUYS.

MACHINA-KUN, DO YOU HAPPEN TO BE EAVESDROPPING?
YES.
…
ワォーン
I THINK...
I MIGHT HAVE SOLVED THE RIDDLE.

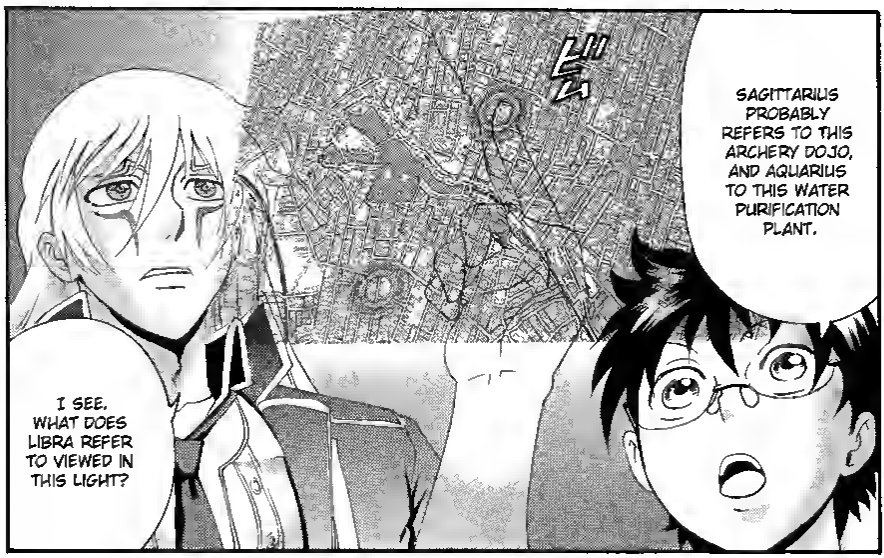
6

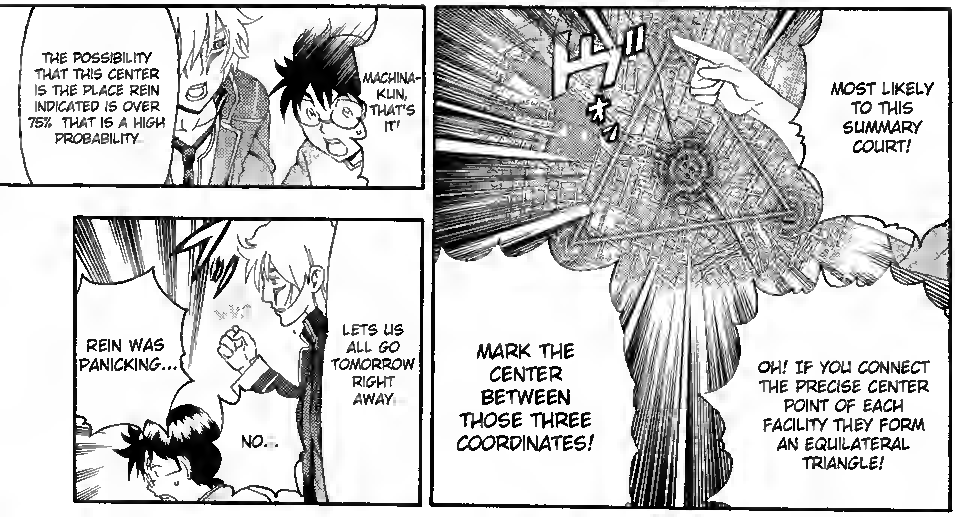

YOU COULD ALSO SAY IT IS AN EXIT.
OH YOU! YOU DON'T NEED TO COME UP WITH EUPHEMISMS. CLOSE IT!
ROGER
REALLY, TOKIWA?
GWAAH! HEY, DON'T BUILD AN ENTRANCE INTO THE WALL WITHOUT ASKING ME!
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT AGAIN WHILE KEEPING IN MIND THE 12 ZODIAC SIGNS ARIA MENTIONED.
IF THE 12 BRIGHT LIGHTS ARE THE ZODIAC SIGNS, THEN THE ONE WHO BEARS WEAPONS IS SAGITTARIUS, AND THE TWO WHICH ARE WITHOUT LIFE ARE AQUARIUS AND LIBRA!


HOWEVER, AQUARIUS IS DEPICTED AS A WATER JUG FROM WHICH POURS A NEVER-ENDING STREAM OF WATER, AS WELL AS THE WATER CARRIER WHO HOLDS THE JUG.
FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE VARIOUS OPINIONS ABOUT THE NUMBER OF STARS THAT DENOTE THESE CONSTELLATIONS. IF YOU ADD ALL OF THEM TOGETHER THEIR NUMBER IS SLIGHTLY OVER 1300 RATHER THAN 12.
AH, NEVER MIND.


I'VE BEEN WONDERING WHY REIN ASKED ME A RIDDLE.
COULD YOU PULL UP A MAP OF THE TOWN WHERE I LIVED WHEN THAT LITTLE REIN APPEARED FROM MY COMPUTER?
IT WAS THE NEIGHBORING TOWN, RIGHT?
YEAH.

7


SAGITTARIUS PROBABLY REFERS TO THIS ARCHERY DOJO, AND AQUARIUS TO THIS WATER PURIFICATION PLANT.
I SEE. WHAT DOES LIBRA REFER TO VIEWED IN THIS LIGHT?


THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS CENTER IS THE PLACE REIN INDICATED IS OVER 75%. THAT IS A HIGH PROBABILITY.
MACHINA-KUN, THAT'S IT!
REIN WAS PANICKING...
LETS US ALL GO TOMORROW RIGHT AWAY.
NO...
MARK THE CENTER BETWEEN THOSE THREE COORDINATES!
トゥルルル
MOST LIKELY TO THIS SUMMARY COURT!
OH! IF YOU CONNECT THE PRECISE CENTER POINT OF EACH FACILITY THEY FORM AN EQUILATERAL TRIANGLE!

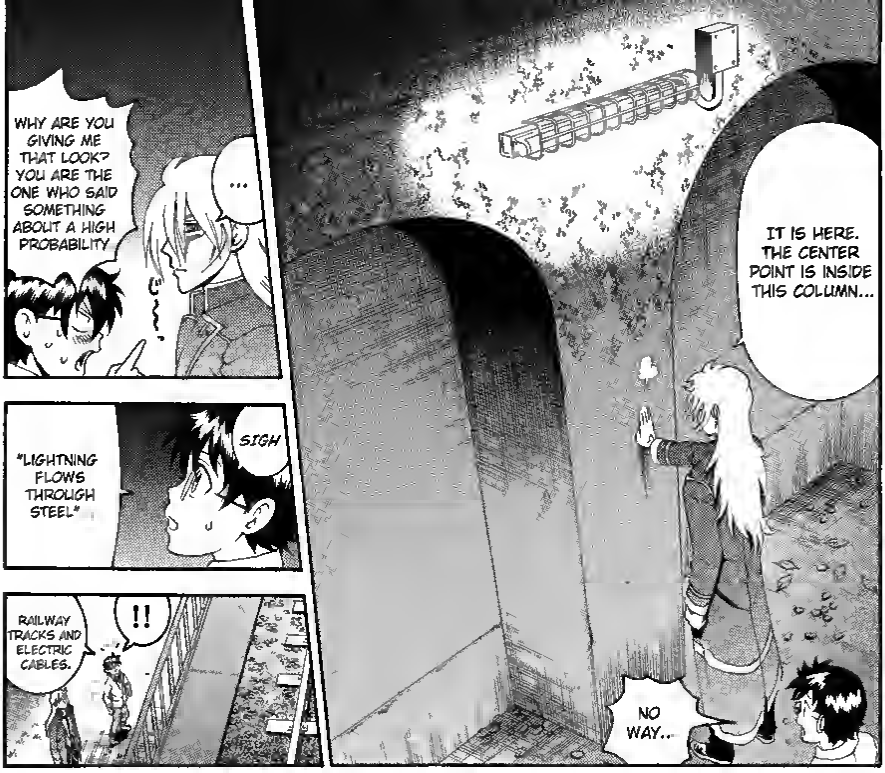
SOMETHING DANGEROUS IS APPROACHING HER; WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW.
LET'S GO NOW!

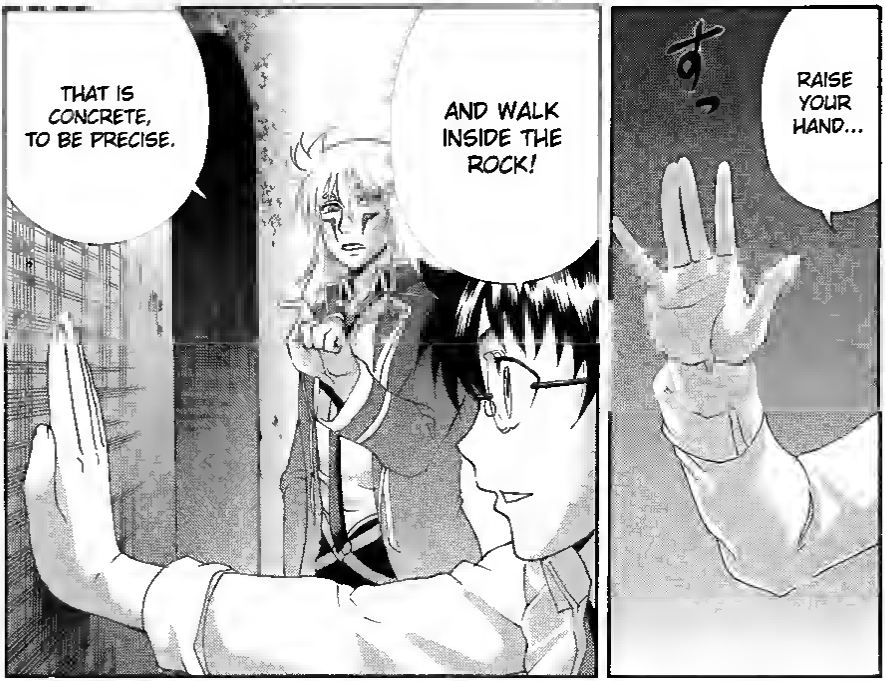
YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT REIN'S WELLBEING, AREN'T YOU?
P-PLEASE GO EASY ON ME.
I DO NOT HAVE ANY INTUITION. THEREFORE I TRUST IN YOUR INTUITION, TOKIWA.
DO NOT WORRY, I AM HERE.
. BUT THE TRAINS HAVE ALREADY STOPPED FOR TODAY.
WHAAT!?

GAAAH! DON'T RUSH-
LET US RUSH THERE.

AAAAAH

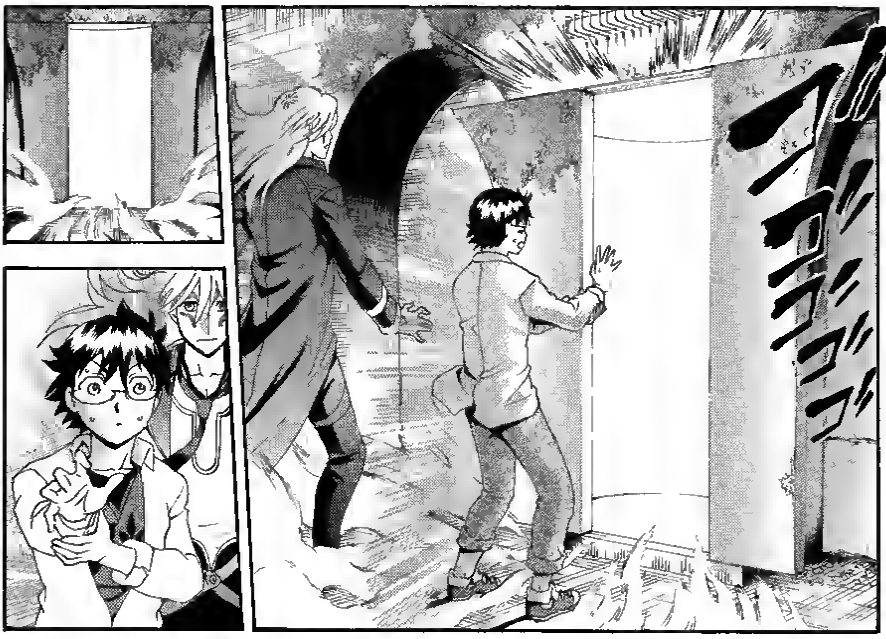
TOKIWA!
HUH?
TOKIWA, WE ARRIVED. TOKIWA?
THIS IS THE CENTER OF THE THREE CONNECTED POINTS?
HUH? THIS IS THE PLACE!?
BUT... WE HAVE ARRIVED.
ROGER.
UUUH. PLEASE.
YES.
TO BE PRECISE...

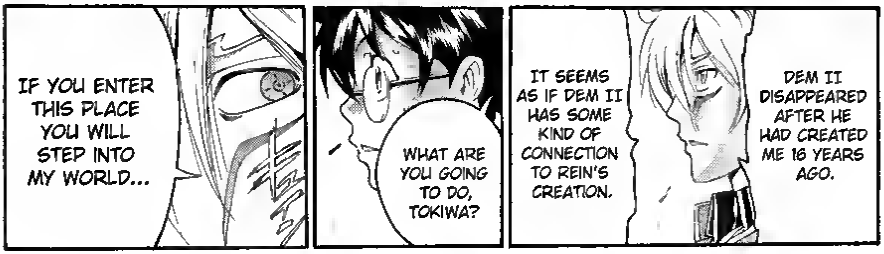

WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THAT LOOK? YOU ARE THE ONE WHO SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A HIGH PROBABILITY
...
IT IS HERE. THE CENTER POINT IS INSIDE THIS COLUMN...
SIGH
"LIGHTNING FLOWS THROUGH STEEL"
!!
RAILWAY TRACKS AND ELECTRIC CABLES.
NO WAY...


THAT IS CONCRETE, TO BE PRECISE.
AND WALK INSIDE THE ROCK!
すっ
RAISE YOUR HAND...

HN?
HOW WAS IT POSSIBLE TO HIDE SUCH A HIGH ENERGY RESPONSE FROM MY SENSORS...?
UWAH!
THAT'S THE MARK OF DEM II.
MY CREATOR DEM II... WHY- !?

12

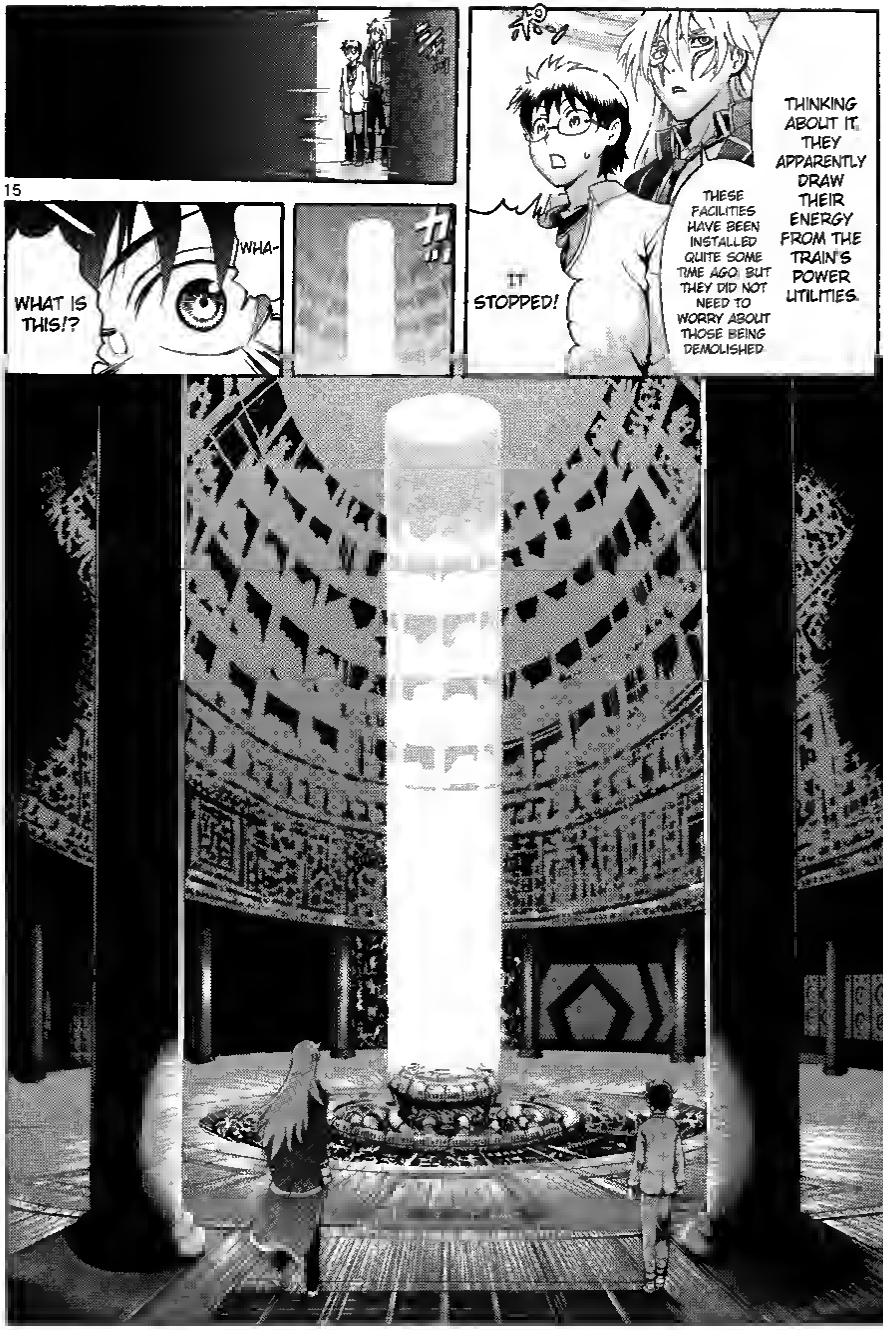



IF YOU ENTER THIS PLACE YOU WILL STEP INTO MY WORLD...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, TOKIWA?
IT SEEMS AS IF DEM II HAS SOME KIND OF CONNECTION TO REIN'S CREATION.
DEM II DISAPPEARED AFTER HE HAD CREATED ME 16 YEARS AGO.

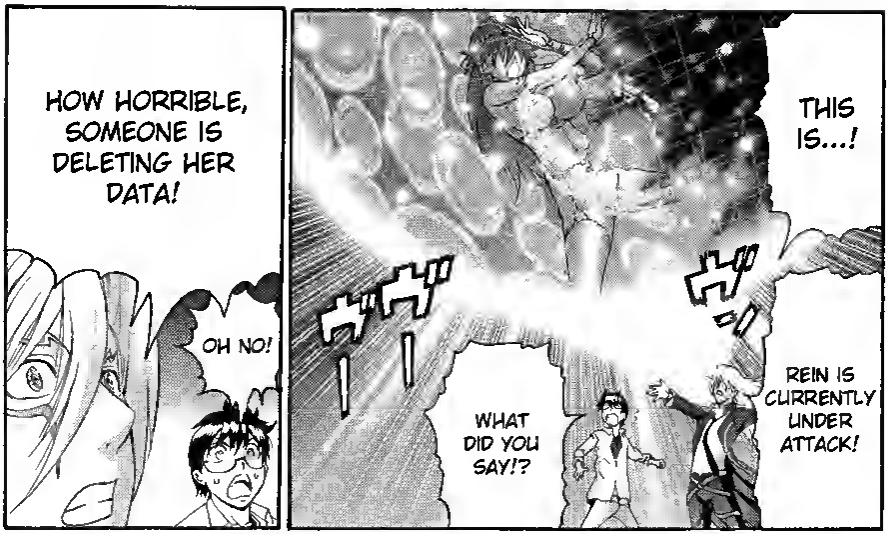
13

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO...
I WANT TO SAVE REIN.

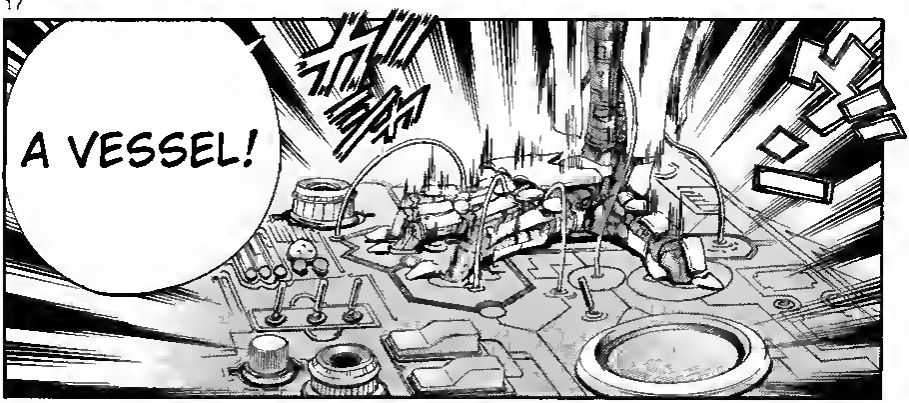
HESITATE!
UWAH!
14
30 METERS DESCENDING FURTHER!
WHAT!?
IF MY GPS IS CORRECT WE ARE 20 METERS BELOW GROUND AT THE MOMENT, AND DESCENDING FURTHER...!
YES.
IT- IT'S AN ELEVA- TOR?


WHA-
WHAT IS THIS!?
IT STOPPED!
THESE FACILITIES HAVE BEEN INSTALLED QUITE SOME TIME AGO. BUT THEY DID NOT NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THOSE BEING DEMOLISHED
THINKING ABOUT IT, THEY APPARENTLY DRAW THEIR ENERGY FROM THE TRAIN'S POWER UTILITIES.

FOR EXAMPLE, THAT IS AS IF THERE WAS A BIPLANE THAT SHOOTS LASERS OR A SAILING SHIP THAT FIRES MISSILES.
SERI-OUSLY?
THE CONSOLE AND THE PARTS THEMSELVES ARE OUT OF DATE, HOWEVER...
THE SYSTEM THAT IS INSTALLED SURPASSES THE CURRENT LEVEL OF MANKIND.
HUH?
THIS IS SOME ODD EQUIPMENT...
SO, WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS HUGE MACHINE?
WHAT? DOES THAT MEAN IT WAS BUILT BY A NON-HUMAN INTELLIGENT LIFE FORM? COULD IT HAVE BEEN ALIENS!?
NO, IT WAS MY CREATOR DEM II.
I DO NOT KNOW... BUT, FRANKLY SPEAKING, THIS MACHINE SOMEHOW RESEMBLES A 3D PRINTER...
WHY DID WE END UP AT YOUR FATHER'S HOME BASE AFTER WE'VE SOLVED REIN'S RIDDLE?
ALL I CAN DEFINITELY SAY IS THAT THIS CANNOT POSSIBLY HAVEN BEEN CREATED BY MERE HUMANS
I DO NOT KNOW. I AM NOT ABLE TO UNDERSTAND IT - EVEN WITH MY ANALYTICAL ABILITIES.
WHAT!?
THERE IS AN INCOMING CALL FROM REIN.
!!


HOW HORRIBLE, SOMEONE IS DELETING HER DATA!
OH NO!
THIS IS...!
REIN IS CURRENTLY UNDER ATTACK!
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?

OH, RIGHT, SHE HAS GOT A SOUL. THE ONLY OTHER THING NECESSARY TO GET HER OUT OF THERE IS...
MACHINA-KUN, PLEASE DO SOMETHING!


A VESSEL!

REIN!
THAT IS STRANGE. ALTHOUGH I FIGURED THE SYSTEM OUT.
NOOO, IT DOESN'T WORK!
DAMN!
OH...
DATA GENOCIDE AT 0.6%
ウィーン!!
!?

OH NO.
A BLACKOUT.
WHAT?
THE HELL.
!!
HM.
IT'S NOT AN APPARITION... BUT
I CAN FEEL A STRONG POWER.
FA-THER!

... HUH, SOMEONE IS...
COMING HERE TO THIS WORLD.

SHUN MATSUENA

TOKIWA KITARERI!! CHAPTER 17

TRANSLATION BY YXCV

http://bato.to/comic/_/comics/tokiwa-kitareri-r14455